ABC HOBBYCRAFT

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ABC Astrocade Representatives:
Guy McLimore and Scott Collins

astrocade NEWSLETTER

Astrocade alive & well !

Rumors abound involving the supposed bankruptcy of Astrocade, Inc. One national magazine has reported that the system is dead already. Actually, the truth is much more encouraging.

According to latest information, Astrocade is undergoing financial restructuring. Production, however, is still progressing. ASTROCADE systems and VIDEOCADE cartridges are still available, and new releases will be forthcoming.

According to Astrocade spokesmen, the financial restructuring will delay, but not stop, the release of new VIDEOCADEs now in the works. SOLAR CONQUEROR and COSMIC RAIDERS, both announced for January, will be delayed until mid-to-late February by the changes to give time for package and instructions printing to be completed. The two VIDEOCADEs just mentioned are ready for release at this time, lacking only printed material. Early reports from reviewers have been very favorable, with most who have seen them comparing the two to THE INCREDIBLE WIZARD in graphics quality and play action.

ABC HOBBYCRAFT wishes to insure ASTROCADE fans that it's commitment to the system is firm. ASTROCADE availability is still very, very good and will continue to be so. In fact, the best may be yet to come. (See the next article for details.

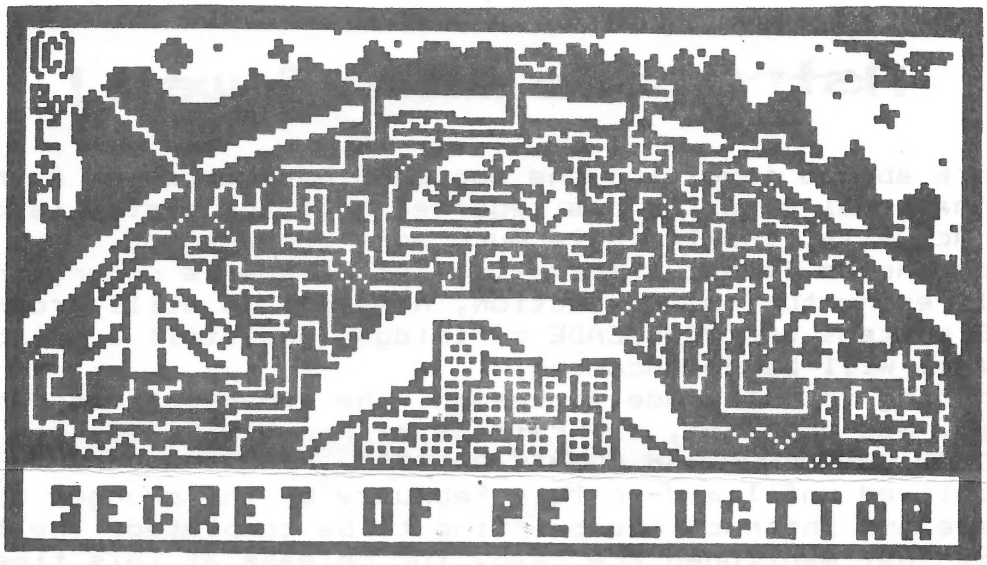
LATE BULLETIN!

A reliable source reports that a major American corporation has expressed interest in investing in, or possibly acquiring, Astrocade Inc. This could be good news for Astrocade owners, as the major company is one that is well-financed, with large holdings world-wide and a reputation for innovation in the field of electronics, computers and communications. Reportedly, the company in question intends to "push" Astrocade world-wide, including finally finishing the Z-Grass 100 unit! ABC's Astrocade Newsletter will provide more information when it becomes available!

Software selection growing rapidly...

The independent software selection continues to grow, with customers being more selective in choosing software. Top lines such as L&M SOFTWARE and WAVEMAKERS are expanding their lines with top-quality efforts featuring fast machine-language graphics. Now available are L&M's NAUTILUS ($15.95), and WAVEMAKER'S L.T. ($10.95). New releases from both companies are expected shortly, and those interested in new software from both companies are encouraged to call for more information, as ABC will have new releases often before they are announced in magazines on in our newsletter.

Guy's Bargain Basement
S P E C I A L



Secret of Pellucitar

Only $5.95

SAVE $10.00

Players explore a fantastic underground world in a race against time to claim the fabulous treasure of Pellucitar! Musical score by George Moses!

GUY'S BARGAIN BASEMENT and L&M SOFTWARE bring Astrocade owners the bargain of the year! L&M's phenomenally popular SECRET OF PELLUCITAR game for Astrocade Basic, at the amazing price of $5.95!

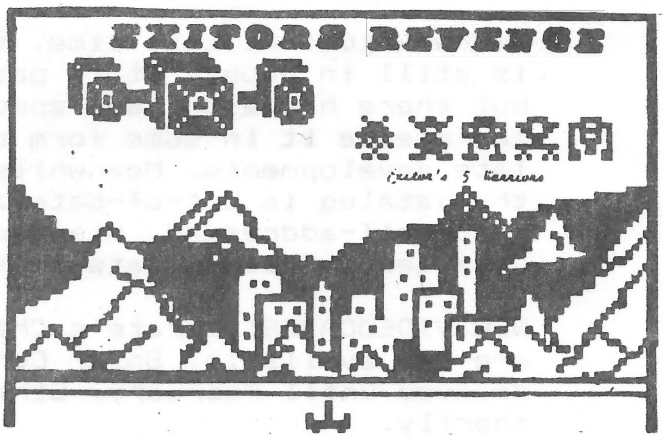
That's right! You get this amazing, bit-mapped program, sold originally for $15.95, for only $5.95! (One player version only on tape...) L&M brings you this offer EXCLUSIVELY through ABC Hobbycraft to introduce you to L&M's fine line of software. If you aren't already an L&M enthusiast, now's the time to get started and SAVE $10.00!

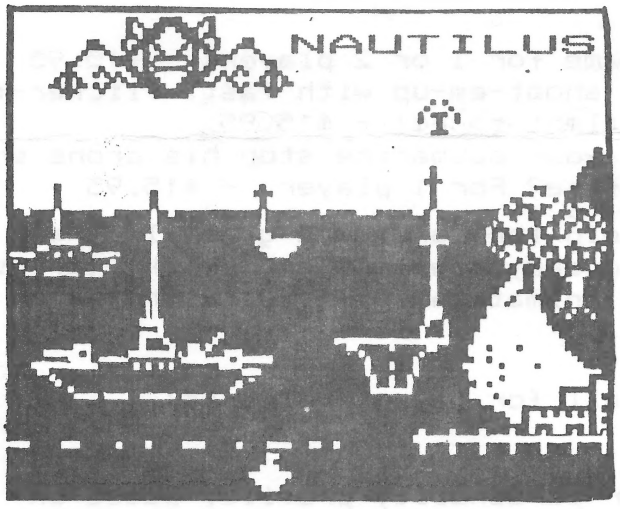
The back of the tape features a fascinating preview of some of L&M's other great games, available ONLY as part of this offer! This fantastic deal from GUY'S BARGAIN BASEMENT is only available for a limited time, and will be over April 1 (when they come to cart us off as April Fools...), so order NOW! No minimum order or other special requirement! This offer made to ABC newsletter customers only! No ads will appear elsewhere!

Be sure to specify you want the "SECRET OF PELLUCITAR SPECIAL" when ordering by phone or mail. All orders subject to the usual $1.50 shipping/handling fee. Try L&M Software now at this amazing low price. (Requires Astrocade Basic with built-in audio interface to run...)

BE SURE AND CHECK OUT THESE OTHER FANTASTIC GAMES FROM L&M SOFTWARE!

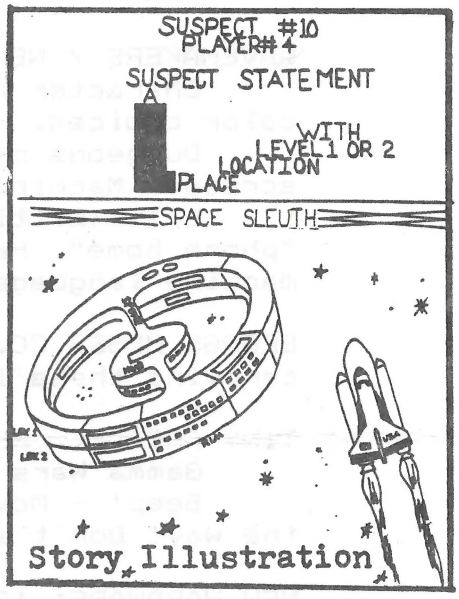
Destroy Exitor's warriors, but keep your missile launcher under your shield. Look out! The battlestar is firing at you! Machine-language graphics! - Only $15.95!

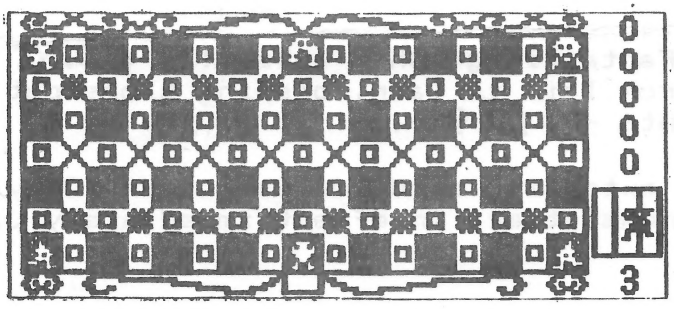




Exitor returns, and only the attack submarine "Nautilus" can save the world! Fast machine language graphics and super detailed screen make this a winner! - Only $15.95!

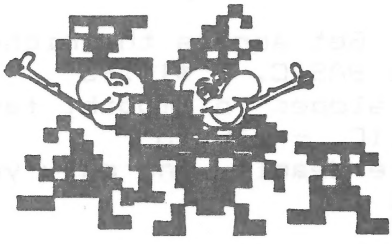
A one-of-a-kind game for Astrocade! Only you can sort out the suspects and arrest an interstellar traitor! Use the unique "Sherlock Eyepiece" to scan for clues! For 1 to 4 players! - Only $12.95!





CANDY MAN

ANIMATED



The Candy Man gathers scattered lifesavers, and the gremlins and jokers try to gather HIM! Machine language graphics bring animated figures to life! - ONLY $12.95!

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS -- ABC HOBBYCRAFT/ASTROCADE CATALOG

Z-GRASS 100: At this time, the fate of the Z-Grass 100 expansion unit is still in doubt. It is possible that Astrocade may produce the unit, but there has also been speculation that an independent source plans to release it in some form or another. ABC will keep you posted on late developments. Meanwhile, the specifications sheet mentioned in the catalog is out-of-date and no longer available. Those who have sent self-addressed, stamped envelopes for it will receive a more detailed Z-Grass update in the near future.

NEW VIDEOCADES: Pirate's Chase ($29.95) and Artillery Duel ($34.95) are now available. Solar Conqueror and Cosmic Raiders have been delayed until February. Other revised release dates will be announced shortly.

L&M SOFTWARE / NEW ITEMS:

Secret of Pellucitar - Maze game for 1 or 2 players - $15.95

Exitor's Revenge - One player shoot-em-up with fast, flicker-free machine language graphics and excellent sound! - $15.95

Nautilus - Exitor's back! Can your submarine stop his drone ships and avoid the deadly battlestar's fire? For 1 player. - $15.95

Candy Man - L&M's best yet! Help the Candy Man grab all the lifesavers, but watch out for the greedy gremlins and tricky jokers! INCREDIBLE machine language figure animation! Difficulty increases with each new screen! Only $15.95!

NEW GAMES expected shortly! Call for latest releases!

WAVEMAKERS / NEW ITEMS:

Character Analysis - Read your personality profile, based on color choices. - $10.95

Dungeons of Dracula - Trap 7 monsters in 10 different maze screens. Machine language graphics! - $10.95

L.T. (Little Terrestrial) - The loveable little alien wants to "phone home". Help him across 4 action screens. Great sound and machine language graphics! - $10.95

GEORGE MOSES CO. & H.A.R.D. SOFTWARE: ABC Hobbycraft is no longer carrying these lines.

TINY ARCADE / NEW ITEMS:

Gamma Wars now available. Fantastic graphic screen! - $10.95

Beep! - Move little Beep from lair to lair, beeping blobs out of the way! Don't let him get caught! - $10.95

NEW HARDWARE: 12 ft. controller extension cord for Astrocade. Only $9.95. (Price change from last newsletter, in effect immediately...)

ESOTERICA LTD. / NEW LINE

Road Toad - Look out, froggie! Get across the highway, quick! In 100% machine language for Astrocade BASIC. - $18.95

Super Slope - Ski down alpine slopes in smooth, fast, 100% machine language. For Astrocade BASIC. - $18.95

Garbersville - The missiles are deadly, and only you can stop them! For Astrocade BASIC. - $18.95

Esoterica Ltd. software now available at ABC...

ABC Hobbycraft has just arranged to add yet another major software line to it's catalog. Esoterica Ltd., one of the best-known software lines for Astrocade, will soon have three programs in the ABC Hobbycraft catalog, with others to follow shortly.

ROAD TOAD is a totally machine language program that loads with Astrocade BASIC. In this fast-graphics game, you must hop your toad across fast-moving lanes of traffic, including motorcycles, trucks, and a speedy sports car.

SUPER SLOPE is a fantastic skiing program in 100% machine language for fast, fast action. This program also loads with Astrocade BASIC.

GARBERSVILLE sets you and your Astrocade as the only defense against an onslaught of nuclear missiles. Protect the city! This program is written in Astrocade BASIC.

Each of the programs listed above sells for only $18.95 on cassette tape. All Esoterica programs come with complete instructions in colorful protective display boxes.

These three programs should be in stock almost immediately, so you can order them NOW! Other Esoterica programs will be added to the catalog in the near future.

ORDERING INFORMATION

ABC Hobbycraft will take orders for Astrocade items either by mail or phone. If calling in your order, call any day but Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Our phone #: (812) 477-9661)

With mail orders, make sure to clearly list what items you want, along with your name and full mailing address, including Zip Code, on the order (not just on the envelope). Enclose a check or money order for the amount of purchase, plus $1.50 shipping/handling. Indicate if you want the order shipped by U.S. Mail. Orders are normally sent UPS, unless otherwise requested. Orders cannot be shipped UPS to a post office box.

If something you have ordered is out-of-stock, and an immediate restock is not expected, a refund will be sent for these items. Instead of enclosing payment, you may charge your purchases to your VISA or MASTER CARD account. Be sure and enclose your COMPLETE card number and the expiration date from your card.

Phone orders can be placed using VISA or MASTER CARD, or can be shipped COD. COD charges will be added to such orders. Sorry, ABC Hobbycraft cannot accept collect calls.

Due to the current postal situation, we cannot accept COD orders from Canada. Canadian orders must be paid by credit card or prepaid by a money order in U.S. funds, or a check drawn on a U.S. bank.

Independent cartridge software coming...

Three independent software firms have announced plans to do cartridge game software for the Astrocade. These games will not require BASIC, but will plug into the cartridge slot like a Videocade and feature the same color, graphics and game action available on current Videocade games.

Likely to be the first available is Esoterica Ltd.'s TREASURE COVE, scheduled for release in February. TREASURE COVE is an 8K cartridge (the same amount of memory in the latest Videocades like THE INCREDIBLE WIZARD and ARTILLERY DUEL). It will feature an elaborate introductory graphic screen in place of the usual menu listing.

In addition, TREASURE COVE will have a CONTINUOUSLY PLAYING musical score. This is a first for Astrocade games, though many good coin-op machines (Frogger, for instance) have continuous music.

TREASURE COVE will be available from ABC Hobbycraft as soon as it is released. Price has not yet been announced.

L & M Software, one of the most popular lines available from ABC Hobbycraft, also intends to enter the cartridge software market in the near future with advanced, total machine language programs.

A third independent has privately revealed plans to enter the independent cartridge software market sometime in February or March. This company, however, is not yet ready to make a public announcement.

With three major entries into this market, along with Astrocade's own releases, the future looks promising for Astrocade owners. ABC Hobbycraft intends to carry all three of the lines discussed above, and is now arranging purchases with the firms involved. Watch future newsletters, or call for latest information!

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